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1 February 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Proposed new definition of psychological warfare.

REFERENCE: Final Draft SSE 14/4 (Proposed SANAAC 304/13) dated
27 January 1949.

1. The following are certain comments on the reference document and I believe that they fairly represent the current thinking of not only OPC but also the areas within the Department of State and the National Military Establishment to which OPC looks for its policy guidance.

2. The SANAAC subcommittee which has prepared the proposed definition is not an appropriate body to concern itself with a matter of this importance and far reaching significance. This is all the more true for the reason that this SANAAC subcommittee is not cognizant of certain activities, including those provided for under NSC 10/2, which would be affected by the adoption of the proposed new definition.

3. From the point of view of OPC, no definition should be made of psychological warfare in the formulation of which the views of CIA and OPC are not fully taken into account.

4. The Department of Defense has voiced objection on the grounds that the adoption of the new definition would create endless confusion because of the fact that numerous JCS and other papers have been drawn up on the basis of the existing definition of psychological warfare. If the definition were to be changed in the drastic manner proposed, this would entail the necessity of revising many important policy papers which are now outstanding. It has also been suggested that a too clean cut delineation of the respective aspects of covert and overt psychological warfare would deprive OPC of a certain amount of much needed cover.

5. We have been informed by the Department of State that when the reference paper reaches the upper level of SANAAC, it will be rejected, and moreover, that the SANAAC subcommittee which prepared this paper will be instructed to refrain from a further involvement of itself in matters which are of no concern to it.

FRANK G. WISNER
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